Lesson Thirteen: The Noun of Time and Place
[اِسْم اَلْظَرْف]

PRINCIPLE ONE

The *noun of time and place* (**اِسْم اَلْظَرْف**) describes either the *time when* or *the place where* the action described by the base letters occurs. For example, the letters **ف–ع–ل** mean "to do" and its *noun of time and place* **مَفْعَل** refers to *a place* or *a time of doing*.

PRINCIPLE TWO

The *noun of time and place* is constructed by placing the three base letters on the pattern of either **مَفْعَل** or **مَفْعِل** (*table 13.1*). A given set of base letters will use only one of these two patterns. For example, replacing the *fā'* (**ف**), *'ain* (**ع**), and *lām* (**ل**) positions in this pattern with **س–ج–د** (*to prostrate*) forms **مَسْجِد** (*a place of prostration*).

PRINCIPLE THREE

The *noun of time and place* does not have a feminine form.

PRINCIPLE FOUR

The dual for the *noun of time and place* is constructed in a manner similar to that outlined for the dual of the *active participle* (*lesson eleven*).

PRINCIPLE FIVE

Unlike the previously discussed noun forms, the *noun of time and place* uses the broken plural. As mentioned in *Lesson Eleven,* the broken plural for any given singular noun must be memorized. *Table 13.1* illustrates a common pattern of the broken plural for the *noun of time and place*.

PRINCIPLE SIX

Recall that nouns express their *grammatical states* through (1) changes in voweling on the last letter of the word or (2) changes in lettering at the end of the word. As a general rule, broken plurals express their *grammatical state*s through changes in the voweling of their last letter. Two *dammah*s (ٌ) indicate the *state* of *rafa'* (رَفْع), two *fathah*s (ً) indicate the *state* of *nasb* (نَصْب), and two *kasrah*s (ٍ) indicate the *state* of *jarr* (جَرّ).

PRINCIPLE SEVEN

The broken plural for the *noun of time and place* varies from the above principle and allows only a single *dammah* (ُ) or a single *fathah* (َ) on its last letter (*table 13.1*). Such words are classified as *ghair munsarif* (غَيْر مُنْصَرِف). They neither permit double vowels (*tanwīn*) nor a single *kasrah* on their last letter. Therefore, for the *ghair munsarif*, a single *dammah* (ُ) indicates the *state* of *rafa'* (رَفْع), and a single *fathah* (َ) indicates the *states* of *nasb* (نَصْب) and *jarr* (جَرّ).

ESSENTIAL NOTE

The conjugations of the *noun of time and place* must be memorized (*table 13.1*) before moving to the next lesson.

TABLE 13.1

THE TWO PATTERNS FOR THE *NOUN OF TIME AND PLACE*

MASCULINE			
BROKEN PLURAL	**DUAL**	**SINGULAR**	
مَفَاعِلُ times *or* places of doing	مَفْعَلاَنِ two times *or* places of doing	مَفْعَلٌ a time *or* place of doing	رَفْع
مَفَاعِلَ times *or* places of doing	مَفْعَلَيْنِ two times *or* places of doing	مَفْعَلاً a time *or* place of doing	نَصْب
مَفَاعِلَ times *or* places of doing	مَفْعَلَيْنِ two times *or* places of doing	مَفْعَلٍ a time *or* place of doing	جَرّ

MASCULINE			
BROKEN PLURAL	**DUAL**	**SINGULAR**	
مَفَاعِلُ times *or* places of doing	مَفْعِلاَنِ two times *or* places of doing	مَفْعِلٌ a time *or* place of doing	رَفْع
مَفَاعِلَ times *or* places of doing	مَفْعِلَيْنِ two times *or* places of doing	مَفْعِلاً a time *or* place of doing	نَصْب
مَفَاعِلَ times *or* places of doing	مَفْعِلَيْنِ two times *or* places of doing	مَفْعِلٍ a time *or* place of doing	جَرّ